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COLOMBIA

GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE DATA



WASHINGTON, D. C.

1917

COLOMBIA IN BRIEF

Area, 476,916 square miles (1,235,214 square kilometers).

Population, 5,472,604. (Census of 1912.)

FOREIGN COMMERCE, 1915

Exports.....	\$31,579,131
Imports.....	17,840,350
Total.....	\$49,419,481

Principal Exports: Coffee, emeralds, gold, cattle hides, bananas, tagua (ivory nuts), Panama hats, rubber, etc.

Principal Imports: Textiles, foodstuffs and condiments, metals, railway supplies, pharmaceutical products, soft drinks, wines, and liquors.

The climate along the coasts is tropical, but in the elevated regions of the interior temperate and healthful. Bogota, the capital, owing to its elevation, enjoys a delightfully cool and salubrious climate the year round.

Chief physical characteristics: An extended coast line on both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Three chains of mountains cross the country, one of these being the source of the Magdalena River, which empties into the Caribbean Sea. The Magdalena is navigable for over 900 miles (say 1,500 kilometers), while the Cesar, Cauca, Nechi, Lebrija, and Sogamoso are navigable for varying distances.

Means of approach: The principal ports of Colombia on the Caribbean Sea are Puerto Colombia, at the mouth of the Magdalena River and connected by rail with Barranquilla, 18 miles (28 kilometers) distant; Cartagena, Santa Marta, and Riohacha. These may be reached by steamers from New York, or from New Orleans by transshipment to coast lines at Colon, Panama. The first three have been added to the itinerary of the United Fruit Company's steamers from New York. They are ports of call also for several European lines. On the Pacific Ocean, Buenaventura and Tumaco are the most important ports, reached by all of the Pacific Coast lines from South American ports and from Panama from the north. There are regularly traveled roads between Bogota and Venezuela to the northeast and Ecuador to the south.

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COLOMBIA



The Republic of Colombia covers an area of 476,916 square miles (1,235,214 square kilometers), with a population of 5,472,604 (census of 1912), equal to 11.47 inhabitants per square mile (4.43 per square kilometer).

Three chains of mountains which cross the country produce a variety of climate and products, ranging from the temperate to the tropical. Coffee, cacao, sugar cane, tobacco, and bananas are successfully grown and largely exported, and the extensive forests contain a number of valuable cabinet and other useful woods and medicinal plants. Vegetable ivory and rubber are other products of export; also "Panama" hats, in the manufacture of which the natives have acquired considerable skill. The mineral wealth of the country has been but little exploited, although its emerald mines furnish the world's chief supply of these gems. Gold is found in every department, and silver, platinum, mercury, iron, and lead also exist. The emerald and salt mines and the pearl fisheries are Government monopolies. Oil has recently been found in paying quantities.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

When Columbus, on his fourth and last voyage, had discovered Cape Gracias a Dios, on September 14, 1502, he sailed along the Colombian coast for a considerable distance, but did not make any attempt to settle the country or conquer the aborigines. It was left for Alonso de Ojeda, who in the year 1508 was granted the land lying east of the Darien River, which was termed the Province of Uraba, to attempt the conquest of the country. Ojeda succeeded in establishing himself firmly along the coast, battling continually with the Indians; but all of his attempts to conquer the Chibcha Kingdom, situated on the high plateau, were fruitless. In the year 1536 Jimenez de Quesada undertook the subjugation of the Chibchas and at the same time two



COAT OF ARMS OF COLOMBIA



VIEWS OF BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.

Upper picture: National Capitol. Center picture: Avenue of the Republic. Lower: Western end of the Plaza of Bolivar.

Bogota, the capital of the Republic of Colombia, has beautiful environs, and is making great progress with the view of increasing the attractiveness of its natural location. The traveler always remembers the city with pleasure, as it preserves very well the fascinating atmosphere of classic Spanish America.

other expeditions, for the same purpose, started from other points, that of Frederman and of Pizarro's first lieutenant, Benalcazar. These three expeditions met on the plateau, and it was due only to the tact and diplomacy of Quesada, that strife was avoided. Having succeeded in this, he established friendly relations with the aborigines, a highly civilized people, similar to the Incas of Peru. He established his capital, the present city of Bogota, at the site of the old Chibcha capital and explored the country in all directions.

A governor-general was appointed by Spain and the name changed to the Province of New Granada, and in the year 1717 it was made a viceroyalty. The first viceroy was Antonio de la Pedrosa y Guerrero, and New Granada was successfully governed by twelve viceroys until the year 1810, when the last, Don Antonio de Amar y Borbon, was deposed by the citizens of Bogota. Revolutionary movements had previously been initiated in various parts of the country, but the war against Spain took definite form in July of that year. On August 7, the patriots under the able leadership of Gen. Simon Bolivar and F. de P. Santander utterly defeated the royalist forces at Boyaca.

Bolivar succeeded in effecting a union between Venezuela and the former viceroyalty of New Granada, and on the seventeenth of December, 1819, the new Republic formally adopted the title of the Republic of Colombia. On July 12, 1821, a constituent congress met at Cucuta and elected Simon Bolivar as the first President of the "Greater Colombia." The "Intendencia de Quito," now the Republic of Ecuador, joined the union in the year 1822, but when, on December 17, 1830, Bolivar died, the union was dissolved, and New Granada adopted the title of the Republic of New Granada on November 17, 1831. This title was subsequently changed to that of the Granadine Confederation, later to that of the United States of Colombia, and lastly to the Republic of Colombia. The changes of name indicate the various phases of the development of the republic. Colombia finally resolved to adopt the unitary republican form of government and has maintained it ever since as best fitted for the country.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

By the constitution adopted August 4, 1886, the Republic of Colombia abolished the Federal Union and the sovereignty of the several States and adopted the unitary republican form of government, with legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

The Senate and the House of Representatives, constituting the National Congress, are intrusted with the legislative power, the former chamber consisting of thirty-five and the latter of ninety-two members. Senators are elected indirectly for a term of four years by electors chosen



Courtesy of The South American.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.

The home of the president is one of the handsomest buildings at the capital. Stately and dignified, it is an attractive feature of the city.

for the purpose, and representatives are elected by direct vote of the people for a term of two years, at the rate of one for every 50,000 inhabitants. Two substitutes are elected for each senator and representative to replace them in case of absence or inability to serve. Congress meets at the capital, Bogota, every year on July 20, for a period of ninety days. It may prolong its sessions for thirty days, or be called in extra session by the President.

The President is elected by direct vote of the people for a term of four years. There is no vice-president, but two designados, first and second, elected annually by the Congress, succeed the President, respectively, in case of his absence, death, or inability to serve.

The President is assisted by a cabinet of eight members who are the heads of their respective departments.

President, Dr. José Vicente Concha (inaugurated August 7, 1914).
First Designado.

Second Designado.

Minister of the Interior.

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Minister of Finance.

Minister of War.

Minister of Public Instruction.

Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

Minister of Public Works.

Minister of the Treasury.

The Department of the Interior (Ministerio de Gobierno) is intrusted with the administration of the various departments and national territories, the post and telegraph offices, hospitals and charitable institutions, sanitation and the maintenance of public health; also of the courts and penal institutions since Colombia has no department of justice. This department is also charged with the supervision of the press of the country. The rural and national police also come under the jurisdiction of this department.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores) has charge of the diplomatic and consular corps and the maintenance of foreign relations through them, as well as the settlement of international boundary disputes.

The Department of Finance (Ministerio de Hacienda) prepares the annual budget, collects and disburses all public funds, and has charge of the service of the public debt, the customhouses and internal-revenue offices and the control of the valuable salt deposits.

The War Department (Ministerio de Guerra) has charge of all matters pertaining to the army and navy, and attends to the instruction and



THE POST OFFICE BUILDING AT BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.

The postal department has about 700 post offices distributed throughout the country, and these handle approximately 7,000,000 pieces of mail matter per year.

training of citizens of the reserve forces. The military and naval colleges are also under its control.

The Department of Public Instruction (Ministerio de Instrucción Pública) exercises supervision and control over the public schools, high schools, colleges, and institutes for special instruction, among the latter being the National School of Commerce, the National School of Fine Arts, and the National Academy of Music. It also has charge of the National Library, the National Museum, and the Astronomical Observatory, and through the various sanitary commissions and health boards frequently intervenes in matters concerning the public health.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce (Ministerio de Agricultura y Comercio) is charged with the work of promoting agriculture and commerce in the broadest sense. Among its duties are the encouragement of education in all branches of agriculture, veterinary, horticulture, and the establishment of practical and experimental schools; the administration and development of national forests and mines. Under commerce comes the study and control of savings banks, chambers of commerce, patents and trademarks, weights and measures, investigations and studies on economic and commercial needs, costs of transportation and insurance, production and consumption statistics, imports and exports, crop zones and areas, and rents and property movements.

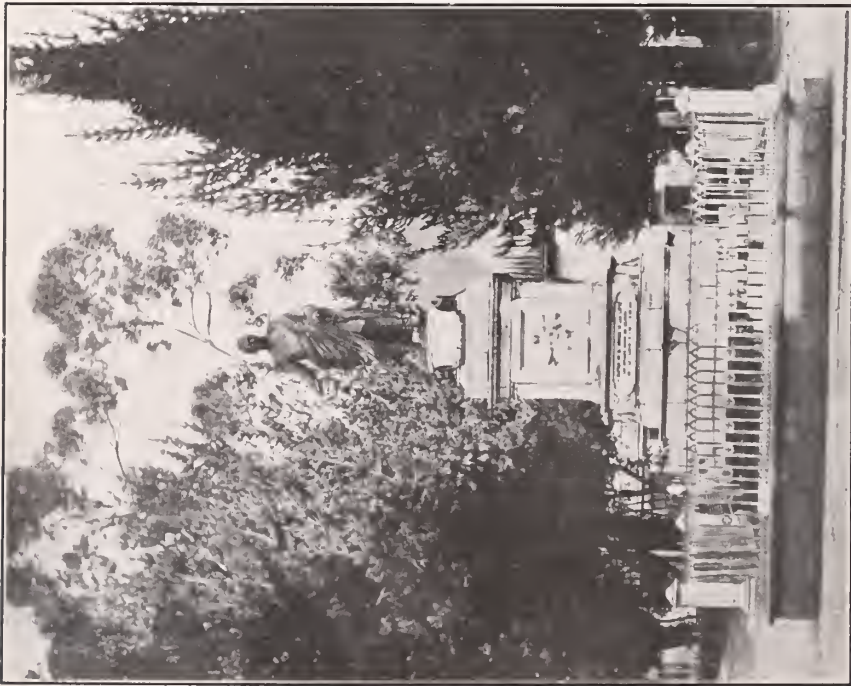
The Department of Public Works (Ministerio de Obras Públicas) is intrusted with the encouragement and regulation of manufacturing industries, mines, agriculture, forests, public lands, the regulation of navigation, the administration of railways, the maintenance of roads and bridges, of public buildings, and other public works.

The Department of the Treasury (Ministerio del Tesoro) is charged with all matters pertaining to the budget. It also has charge of the mint, the printing of bank notes, and the emission of bonds.

The judiciary power is vested in a Supreme Court of Justice consisting of nine magistrates, a superior Tribunal for each Department, and a number of minor judges. The Supreme Court is elected by Congress from names submitted to it by the President for a term of five years. The justices of the Superior Tribunals are elected by the Supreme Court for a period of four years and are chosen from names submitted to it by the respective Departmental Assemblies. There are also a number of minor judges.

The permanent army consists of about 6,000 men. The President, however, is authorized to increase this number to 20,000 in case of public necessity. Military service is compulsory,¹ and the total war strength of the armed forces is estimated at 120,000. The navy com-

¹The service is compulsory in the sense that the standing army is drafted, one-third every year, so that the entire army is renewed every three years.



COLOMBIAN MONUMENTS

Left: Statue of Gen. Francisco de Paula Santander, in the park of the same name in the city of Bogota. Right: Statue of Gen. Garcia Rovira in Bucaramanga Colombia.

prises five cruisers, three gunboats, one troop ship, and other auxiliary vessels.

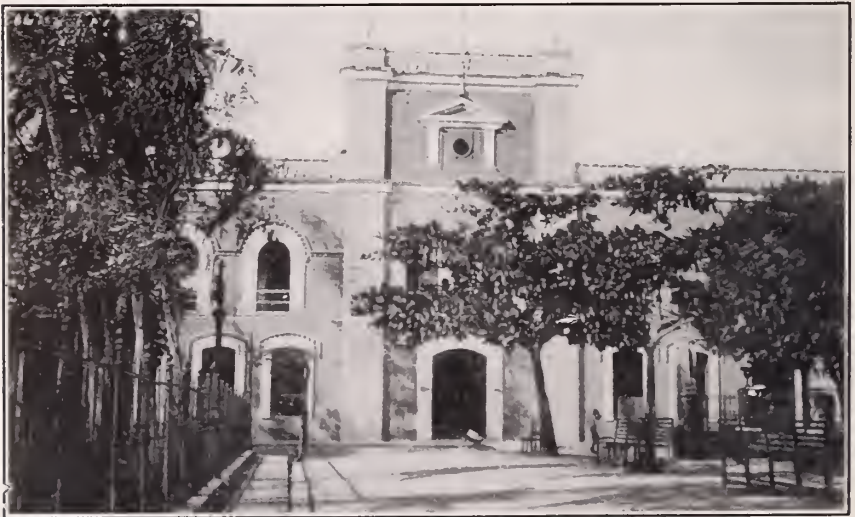
There are about 700 post offices in the Republic, handling approximately 7,000,000 pieces of mail matter per annum. There are over 500 telegraph offices, with 20,000 kilometers (12,000 miles) of Government lines in operation. The Government has the control of these systems. Contracts have been concluded for establishing wireless stations at Bogota, Buenaventura, Medellin, Santa Marta, the island of San Andres, and Cartagena for communication with the West Indies, Panama, and Venezuela. Plans are also under way for wireless stations at Arauca, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cucuta, Manizales, Orocué, Riohacha, Tamalameque or El Banco, and Tunaco.

Under Decree No. 340 of 1910, and subsequent decrees, the Republic has been divided into fourteen Departments, three Territories or "Intendencias," and seven "Comisariás" or special districts. Executive authority in each Department is vested in a governor appointed by the President, while the Intendencias and Comisariás are governed by special commissioners. The provincial and district executive authorities are likewise appointed by the President, but municipal councils are elected by direct vote of the people.

Colombia maintains as diplomatic representative to the United States a Minister at Washington. It has a Consul General in New York; Consuls in Mobile, San Francisco, Chicago, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Newark, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Norfolk (Va.), and in Ponce and San Juan, Porto Rico; Vice-Consuls in Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, and Norfolk, and a Consular Agent in Gulfport (Miss.). The United States maintains a Minister at Bogota, and has Consuls in Barranquilla and Cartagena, Vice Consuls in Barranquilla and Cartagena, and Consular Agents in Cali, Medellin, and Santa Marta.

The monetary unit in Colombia is the gold peso, equivalent to approximately \$0.973. It weighs 1.5976 grams and is 0.9167 fine. The multiple of the gold dollar is the pound (\$5.00). The subsidiary coins are silver and nickel. The former are 0.900 fine, and in denominations of 50, 20, and 10 centavos; the latter are 1, 2, and 5 centavos. The ordinary medium of exchange is the paper peso, convertible at and representing the above gold peso.

The capital of the Republic is the city of Bogota, with a population not much short of 150,000, in the interior of the country, on the temperate plateau, at an elevation of 8,564 feet (2,610 meters). It lies in a healthful and productive region, with higher mountain ranges surrounding it. As the valleys in the neighborhood are well inhabited by an industrious people, an abundant and remarkably varied food supply



HISTORIC POINTS IN SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA.

Santa Marta was the first city founded on Colombian soil by the white man. It owes its inception to the Spanish explorer, Rodrigo de Bastidas, who set up the flag of his country in the blue bay beneath the mountains of Tairona in the year 1525.

Upper picture: Statue of Bolivar at San Pedro Alejandrino, just outside of the city of Santa Marta. Center picture: The home of San Pedro Alejandrino where Bolivar passed away. Lower picture: Government palace at Santa Marta.

is one of the attractive features of the city. The difficulty of approach from the sea, as will be explained under railways, is the only reason why Bogota is not regularly visited by foreigners as it deserves. Among the notable public buildings are the presidential palace, the national capitol, the cathedral, several banks, and the schools of medicine, law, and engineering. The city of next importance in the Republic is Medellin, now accessible, except for a short ride over a good road, by railway from Puerto Berrio, one of the Magdalena River ports. Medellin is quite modern, although with a history back to the early days of the country, and its commercial activity, and the general energy and ambition of the people, make it a most attractive city. Its population is approaching 75,000. Cali, with almost 30,000 inhabitants, is the interior city for the Pacific port of Buenaventura, and is considered one of the most advanced cities in the Republic. The chief ports on the salt water are Buenaventura, already mentioned, destined to become, with the development of Canal operations, important for all the western region of Colombia; Cartagena on the Caribbean Sea, the classical port of the Spanish Main; Barranquilla, head of the steamer service for the Magdalena River traffic, and Santa Marta, now revived into great importance by the increasing banana interests of this coast.

PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES

The coast and hot regions of the Republic produce corn, sugar cane, sea-island cotton, rubber, cacao, bananas, fibers, tropical fruits and vegetables, while the mountains and uplands yield coffee, apples, peaches, berries, potatoes, wheat, barley, and in fact all of the products of the Temperate Zone. The entire country is suitable for stock raising, the pastures in many sections remaining green the year round.

On the Magdalena, an adequate labor supply is obtainable for large plantations of bananas as well as of cacao and rubber. The valleys of the Atrato and Leon have long been recognized as having proper characteristics for the cultivation of these products. With a sufficient population the Santa Marta district could within a few years increase its importance tenfold. On the Sinu River there is also much good banana land, as well as an area suited to the cultivation of oranges, pineapples, alligator pears, and many other tropical products. This is the great cattle belt. It is also the source of the cedar and mahogany exported from Colombia.

The coffee crop of the Republic yields annually about 1,000,000 bags (bag contains 60 kilos or 132 pounds) produced by 125,000,000 coffee plants. Next to Brazil, it exports more coffee than any other country and the industry in Colombia represents an investment of \$37,500,000, making it probably the most important in the country. During 1915



COLOMBIAN VIEWS.

Upper. View of Pamplona, founded by the Spaniards in 1549, situated in the coffee-producing section of Colombia. Lower: View of Piedecuesta, situated on the Rio Oro, in the region noted for its agricultural products, such as tobacco, cacao, cotton, and coffee.

the coffee exports were valued at more than half of the total exports. The United States consumes the bulk of Colombian coffee and took 111,077,449 out of the 149,111,674 pounds exported that year. The principal coffee districts are the Department of Cundinamarca, which produces the renowned Bogota brand; the Ocana, Cucuta, and Bucaramanga districts in the Department of Santander, and in the Tolima and smaller valleys of the Cordilleras.

The gathering of ivory nuts, the fruit of the tagua palm, from which the higher grades of buttons are manufactured, is one of the growing industries of the country. The exports of this product during 1915 were valued at \$343,264.

In some departments, notably Antioquia, the mineral industry is well established, while the Marmato and Sucio River gold deposits are said to be equal to those of the Transvaal. It is said that the entire Pacific coast of Colombia has been formed by gold-bearing alluvial, so that with more effective development a great mining center will be established. The great gold-bearing region is found in the Department of Antioquia and in the mountain ranges that separate the Cauca and Magdalena Rivers. In this large area of many thousands of square miles, wherever there is gravel there is gold, and back in the mountains, where the rock has been laid bare, veins are found everywhere. These veins contain treasures of gold that can be extracted by the systematic use of modern machinery and methods. Many hundreds of miles of this rich territory have never been explored except by the Indian hunter.

Recent gold discoveries near Nciva, on the upper Magdalena River, have opened up a new section of the gold belt. It is known that the Department of Narino, bordering on the Ecuador line, is rich in the precious metal. Gold nuggets are found in the gravel beds of all the rivers of this section flowing into the Pacific Ocean. Discoveries have also been made of rich gold-bearing quartz on the headwaters of the Andagueda and Chirvigo Rivers, distant about 125 miles from Quibdo.

Copper ores are very abundant in Colombia, but owing to the richness of the country in gold and silver little attention has been paid to the common metals. When the value of the copper deposits becomes better known and appreciated, Colombia will without doubt rank as one of the greatest copper-producing countries of the world. Copper ores are found in the Ocana and Velez districts, in the Department of Santander, in the districts of Moniguica and Santa Rosa, in the Department of Boyaca, and in the Department of Antioquia.

Russia is the only country whose platinum output exceeds that of Colombia. This metal, which is always found mixed with gold, comes from the gravels of the Choco district, its main source being the Platina and Condota Rivers, which are tributary to the San Juan River. It is also obtained from some of the streams that flow into the Atrato River.



CATTLE IN THE CAUCA VALLEY, COLOMBIA.

The Cauca Valley, by reason of its topography and its combination of pasture and table lands, constitutes one of the richest natural resources of Colombia. Hills and mountains, valleys and plains, cultivated fields and uncultivated lands, forest and prairies, all combine to make the region beautiful and attractive. The soil is wonderfully adapted to cattle raising and agriculture.

Coal is found in the Cordillera, lignite on the coasts, and coking and steam coal in the interior. Valuable deposits have been discovered recently between the Atrato and Leon Rivers; in short, the Colombian coal fields are well located to take advantage of the market facilities which are becoming available with the operation of the Panama Canal.

The petroleum deposits are said to resemble those of the Beaumont, Texas, oil fields. The quality of the product is excellent and it was awarded the first prize in the Centennial Exposition held at Bogota in July, 1910. Refineries have been established for the elaboration of gasoline, benzine, paraffin, and other by-products from the crude petroleum.

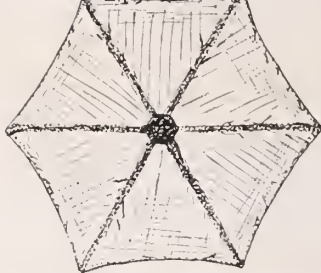
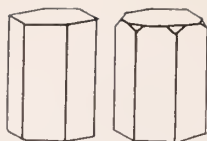
Iron ores are abundant in the Republic, and shipments of high-grade asphalt are made from Santander.

The principal manufacturing industries are those for the making of textile goods, glass, earthenware, matches, hats, iron foundries, and flour and sugar mills.

All or very nearly all the *emeralds* mined today come from Colombia. And, in spite of the supposed higher value of diamonds, the emerald is the most precious of gems. Carat for carat, a flawless emerald would bring perhaps three times the price of a flawless diamond in the jewelry market. India, the storehouse of precious stones, is credited with producing the first emeralds, but the oriental emerald is not identical with the modern gem, as it is a variety of the ruby, of a green color and extremely rare.

"Smaragdus," the Greek word from which emerald is traced, really meant any green stone, and this led to some confusion in identifying the true character of the jewels referred to under this name in ancient writings. Now the name is only applied to that gem of the beryl family of a bright green color (due to traces of a quantity of oxide of chromium), a translucent hexagonal crystal with glass-like luster and uneven fracture, composed of silica, alumina, glucina, magnesia, and soda. It is brittle and comparatively soft when fresh from the mines, but hardens on exposure to air. Today emeralds are found in Austria, in Siberia, in India and especially in Colombia.

Tradition has it that an Aztec gem appropriated by Cortez was valued at 40,000 ducats. Another wonderful stone, the size of an ostrich egg, was found in the Manka Valley, Peru, where the Indians worshipped it as the Goddess of Emeralds. The Spanish conquerors opened up the mines of Colombia in 1540. The richest mineral areas were those of Muzo and Coscuez, about 75 miles (121 kilometers) north of Bogota, and the Somondoco or Chivor group, about 80 miles (129 kilometers) northeast of Bogota, at an elevation of about 6,500 feet (say 2,000 meters) above sea level. A curious fact in the history of these latter mines is that they were closed and lost to the world in an enveloping forest of jungle for over a hundred years and only rediscovered some 12 or 15 years ago.



EMERALD MINING IN COLOMBIA.

Upper: (Left) Characteristic shapes of the emerald crystals found in the Muzo mines. (Right) Cross section of a remarkable emerald crystal recently found at Muzo, showing carbonaceous impurities disposed along crystallographic lines so as to form a six-rayed star pattern. Center: The emerald in matrix. Lower: (Photo by J. E. Pogue) Panoramic view of buildings and open cuts at Muzo mines. The yield from this mine, both in quantity and quality of good stones, has exceeded the total of any other emerald deposit in the world.

The Government of Colombia controls the exploitation of emeralds, leasing the mining districts to the working companies. The Muzo group, from which the finest emeralds come, has an estimated yearly output of 262,548 carats of the first class, 467,690 second class, 22,700 third class, and 16,000 fourth class. The Coscuez group, named for an Indian princess, which produced the variety of emerald called canutillo, one of the most valuable stones, is now in the category of "lost mines," the exact location being unknown. The Somondoco or Chivor group, not now being worked, is supposed to possess a matrix that would yield a half million dollars' worth of emeralds a year.

The Cuincha group, across the Minero River from the Muzo mines, forms a new field of much promise.

The emerald-mining country of Colombia is extremely inaccessible, and the difficulties of transport force a recourse to the simplest methods in order to extract the stones. The Muzo mine is in what seems to be the bowl of an extinct volcano, and the method in use there is typical. Twenty or thirty laborers with picks and crowbars break out the face of the crater along a determined line, leaving a trail of green quartz that contains the crystals; the quartz is then cut and separated with the greatest care, for the gems are extremely fragile when in the matrix, and the debris dropped into a sluiceway, where it is washed by a stream of water coming with force from the higher planes of the mine; the water is then drained off and the sediment searched for the green gems. It was by just this method that the most valuable single emerald in the world was found.

COMMERCE FOR 1915

The total foreign trade of Colombia for the year 1915 amounted to \$49,419,481, of which \$17,840,350 represented imports, and \$31,579,131 exports. The figures for the year 1914 were: Imports, \$20,979,229; exports, \$32,632,884; total, \$53,612,113. There was, therefore, a decrease for the year 1915 as compared with the preceding year of \$3,138,879 in imports, and of \$1,053,753 in exports, or a total decrease in foreign trade of \$4,192,632.

The balance of trade in favor of the Republic for the year 1915 was \$13,738,781. In 1914 it was \$11,653,655.

Ten-Year Table of Foreign Trade

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1906.....	\$10,608,394	\$14,613,918	\$25,222,312
1907.....	12,088,563	14,480,711	26,569,274
1908.....	13,513,889	14,998,734	28,512,623
1909.....	11,117,927	16,040,193	27,158,120
1910.....	17,383,039	17,625,152	35,008,191
1911.....	18,108,863	22,375,809	40,484,762
1912.....	23,964,623	32,221,746	56,186,369
1913.....	28,535,780	34,315,252	62,851,032
1914.....	20,979,229	32,632,884	53,612,113
1915.....	17,840,350	31,579,131	49,419,481



WASHING DEBRIS FOR EMERALDS IN COLOMBIA.

Formerly the search for emeralds was carried on through galleries or wells, but this method has been abandoned in favor of working by free excavation. The deposits are worked from their highest point downward. The men stand upon narrow terraces in the great open cuts from which they pry the rocks loose by means of long crowbars. After removing the loose earth covering the stones the debris is washed in the abundant supply of water found within easy reach of the mines.

IMPORTS

The imports by countries of origin for the last five years were:

Countries.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$5,404,976	\$7,612,037	\$7,629,500	\$6,486,749	\$8,980,177
United Kingdom.....	5,838,789	7,838,879	5,837,400	6,346,386	5,800,000
France.....	1,718,748	2,011,886	4,408,600	1,249,374	850,000
Germany.....	3,242,635	4,201,125	4,012,100	2,570,424	400,000
Italy.....		596,881	726,100	625,492	
Spain.....	397,733	476,969		570,257	
Belgium.....		570,919	499,000	407,525	
Dutch West Indies.....		60,724		82,181	
Other Countries.....	1,505,982	595,203	5,423,080	2,640,841	1,810,173
Total.....	\$18,108,863	\$23,964,623	\$28,535,780	\$20,979,229	\$17,840,350

¹Estimated

²United States exports to Colombia.

The imports by major groups of articles for the last five years were as follows:

Articles.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Textiles.....	\$8,025,856	\$10,547,134	\$11,455,233	\$6,785,236	\$6,511,472
Metals and manufac- tures.....	2,004,082	2,916,925	3,163,607	2,670,472	1,435,405
Foodstuffs and condi- ments.....	2,191,009	3,054,953	2,817,420	1,974,469	2,296,935
Locomotion: Railway cars, carriages, wagons, etc.....	726,048	1,031,711	1,164,104	1,027,950	660,045
Soft drinks, wines and liquors.....	628,596	835,772	1,051,412	747,657	309,544
Drugs and medicines.....	762,209	838,349	947,189	770,700	818,942
Materials for the arts and trades.....	702,856	620,251	904,317	461,179	246,510
Firearms, accessories and ammunition.....	48,992	57,439	605,527	265,987	66,154
Paper, school and office supplies.....	453,702	477,522	555,609	566,417	508,243
Lighting and fuel.....	371,447	564,063	523,502	554,897	607,056
Crystal, glass, porcelain and earthenware.....	457,381	503,579	520,229	495,110	249,047
Agricultural and mining implements and ma- chinery.....	323,074	381,588	503,875	897,190	891,302
Hides and skins and manufactures.....	310,441	459,607	486,326	380,776	354,214
Wood and manufactures.....	226,373	317,402	359,392	249,480	174,496
Electrical material.....	100,090	175,639	320,261	222,566	159,343
Animals.....	7,179	26,017	289,478	184,084	8,822
Oils and greases.....	106,819	171,734	159,067	200,092	185,671
Perfumery and soap.....	97,380	152,170	153,393	115,329	90,128
Varnish, colors and ink.....	104,345	125,862	151,774	122,170	154,921
Tobacco.....				243,313	148,433
Rubber, celluloid, etc.....	84,505	102,358	148,436	82,994	41,803
Musical instruments.....	55,768	69,623	89,664	70,850	72,995
Tortoise shell, horn, etc.....	53,501	75,600	78,237	39,167	14,826
Explosives and combus- tibles.....	38,420	94,116	68,843	81,456	89,206
Plants and seeds.....				7,964	7,637
Silver coin.....					307,551
Miscellaneous.....	228,781	365,209	470,425	149,076	148,751
Parcel post packages.....			1,548,400	1,612,351	1,280,898
Total.....	\$18,108,863	\$23,964,623	\$28,535,780	\$20,979,229	\$17,840,350



SCENE NEAR BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA.

Barranquilla is the chief port of entry of Colombia and is a progressive city of over 50,000 inhabitants



ON THE MAGDALENA RIVER, COLOMBIA.

Three types of craft used on the Magdalena—steamer, champan, and canoe. The first stage of the journey from Barranquilla to Bogota, the capital, is made by flat-bottom stern-wheel steamers and requires from 8 days to 2 weeks.

EXPORTS

The exports by countries of destination for the last five years were:

Countries.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$12,248,995	\$15,832,882	\$18,861,800	\$18,272,332	\$21,945,602
United Kingdom.....	4,596,138	4,376,182	5,566,000	5,874,512	3,692,207
Venezuela.....					1,590,779
Spain.....	119,654	302,918		51,996	419,885
France.....	769,189	625,199	797,900	457,993	253,986
Italy.....				21,078	236,269
Dutch West Indies.....				117,640	126,510
Ecuador.....					97,585
Panama.....				173,726	59,550
Belgium.....			593,700	76,594	
Germany.....	1,910,354	1,854,211	3,216,200	1,779,393	
Other Countries.....	2,731,569	9,230,354	5,279,652	2,313,076	258,349
Addition for market values over customs house values, coffee and hides.....				3,494,544	2,898,409
Total.....	\$22,375,899	\$32,221,746	\$34,315,252	\$32,632,884	\$31,579,131

Nearly the whole value of exports to Venezuela, as shown above, consisted of coffee in transit shipped through the Venezuelan port of Maracaibo.

The exports by major groups of articles were as follows:

Articles.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Vegetable products.....	\$14,375,301	\$20,792,418	\$23,975,300	\$17,756,091	\$17,584,547
Mineral products.....	4,597,762	7,769,388	5,514,600	6,377,624	6,336,742
Animal products.....	1,960,410	2,258,701	3,362,700	2,053,673	2,990,602
Manufactured products.....	1,347,394	1,210,678	1,017,100	1,416,804	1,110,709
Live animals.....	92,852	150,606	85,800	17,617	121,000
Miscellaneous products.....	7,445	31,809	48,152	32,953	12,768
Currency.....	84,735	8,146	300,100	1,482,779	524,353
Gold and silver coin by parcel post.....			11,500	800	
Addition for market values over customs house values, coffee and hides.....				3,494,543	2,898,410
Total.....	\$22,375,899	\$32,221,746	\$34,315,252	\$32,632,884	\$31,579,131

According to Vice-Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, the declared value of the principal articles invoiced for shipment to the United States in 1914, 1915 and 1916 were as follows:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916
Balsam.....	\$32,578	\$27,944	(1)
Bananas.....	877,731	803,483	\$1,667,213
Cattle.....	1,600	41,255	(1)
Cocoanuts.....	19,541	1,276	(1)
Coffee.....	12,243,012	12,632,829	16,616,686
Gold.....	785,207	921,350	2,066,941
Hats (Panama).....	1,080,508	566,683	682,269
Hides, cattle.....	1,197,535	2,079,343	3,575,051
Ipecac.....	43,660	248,524	167,219
Tagua (ivory nuts).....	119,459	95,645	259,550
Minerals and mineral earth.....	78,016	38,601	(1)
Platinum.....	357,519	504,302	1,456,648
Rubber.....	89,104	102,339	271,326
Silver ore.....		7,424	(1)
Skins, goat and deer.....	83,057	43,252	57,306
Sugar.....	113,178	134,037	249,239
Tanning extract and mangrove.....	54,576	129,046	229,336
Tobacco.....	777	24,338	154,336
Woods (cedar and mahogany).....	86,706	95,672	44,686
All other articles.....	50,933	66,911	261,275
Total.....	\$17,314,697	\$18,624,254	\$27,759,081

(1) In 1915 included in all other articles.



OVERLOOKING THE OLD TOWN OF SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA

Santa Marta, founded in 1525, was the first settlement of the Spaniards on the northern coast of what is now Colombia. In 1533 an expedition from this settlement founded the nearby city of Cartagena, and three years later sent forth the expedition which discovered Bogota, then known as Mequetza. Simon Bolivar died in 1830 on the San Pedro estate, about 3 miles from the city. At the present time Santa Marta is a flourishing center for the export of bananas and other fruits, being the terminal of a railroad and a shipping port for the steamers of the United Fruit Co.

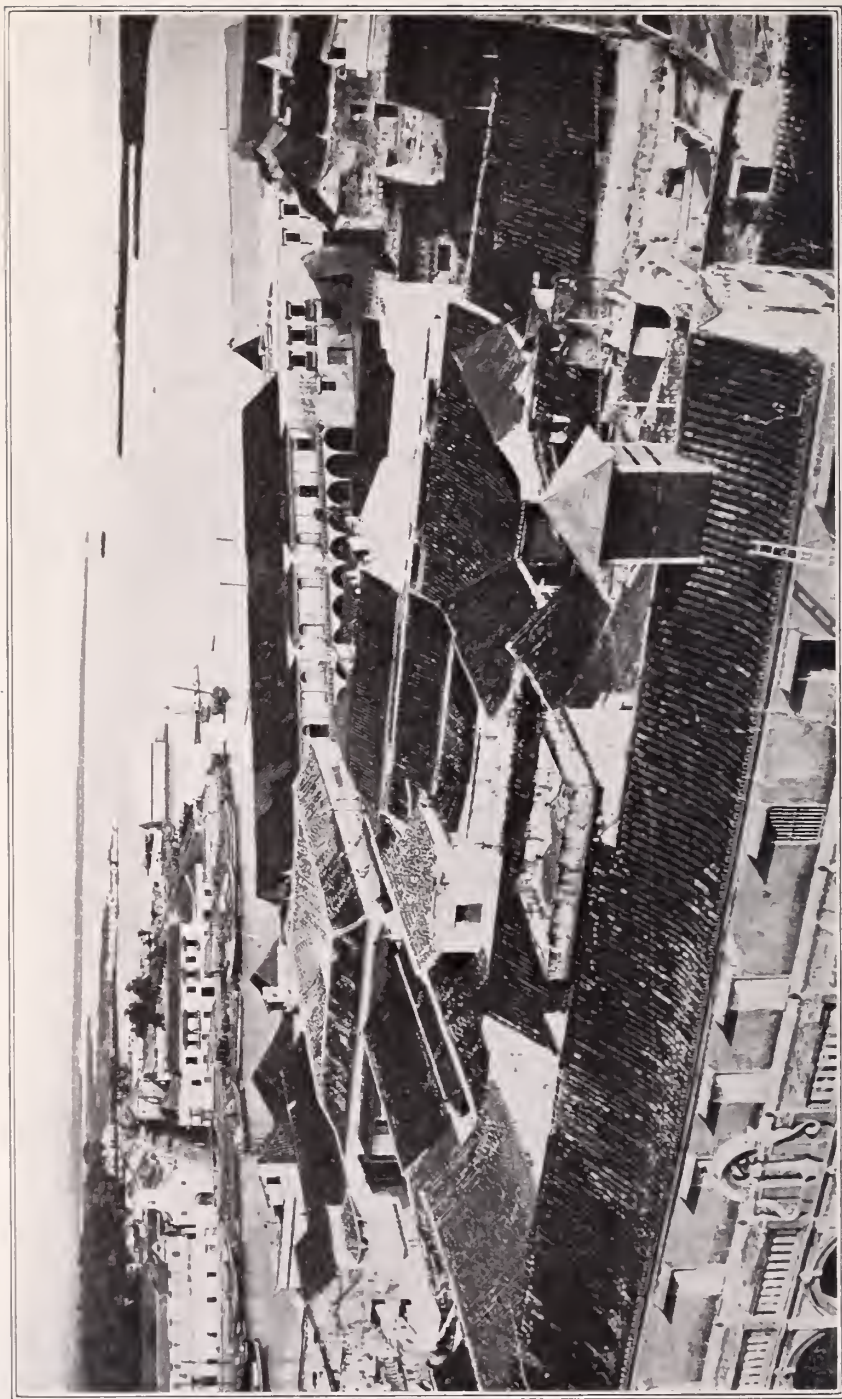
RAILWAYS AND INTERIOR WATERWAYS

The peculiar geographical features of the Republic have rendered the construction of extended railroad lines a very expensive and difficult undertaking. The chain of the Andes divides the southwestern part of the country into three distinct ranges, the middle one of which ceases some 150 miles (242 kilometers) from the northern coast, thus permitting the Cauca River, which rises between the central and western range, to unite with the Magdalena some distance above its entrance into the Caribbean Sea. To reach Bogota from the west coast, which would be by far the shortest route from the ocean, a railroad would have to traverse not only the western and central ranges, but mount to the plateaus of the third range, on which the capital is situated.

The Magdalena River, which is at present the only available outlet from Bogota to the Atlantic coast, is impassable at several points on account of rapids and has a bar at its mouth which impedes navigation. Barranquilla, at which point the river journey to the capital begins, is about 15 miles (24 kilometers) by rail from the seaport of Savanilla. The traveler can also make the trip by rail from Cartagena to Calamar, 65 miles (105 kilometers), taking the steamer at the latter point. A journey by water is then made to La Dorada, where a change is made to the railroad, and a second river trip commenced at Puerto Beltran, and the final stage of the journey made by rail from Girardot to Bogota, the total time consumed being about seven days.

There is as yet no continuous railroad system within the Republic, but there are many short lines at present engaged chiefly in local traffic, which, when their plans are fully carried out, will connect the coast on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides with the centers of production. Those lines which tap the valleys of the Atrato and Cauca Rivers will probably at some future date form a part of the proposed Pan American railway system.

There are two short lines in the northeastern part of the Republic, but the interests of most of the lines now in operation are bound up with those of the capital, the whole eastern and southern territory from Bogota to the Venezuela and Ecuador boundaries having no rail connection with the more settled sections of the country.



A VIEW OF CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA.

Cartagena, called the "Heroic City," is situated on the Caribbean coast, and was founded in 1533. It was the first city of Colombia to declare independence of Spain in 1811, and has been several times besieged, the most memorable siege being that of 1815.

The length of railways in operation in the Republic is 1,113 kilometers (about 690 miles). The following table shows the lines in actual operation and the mileage of each:

	Kilometers.	Miles.
Amaga Railway	36	22.3
Antioquia or Puerto Berrio Railway	160	105.0
Bolivar Railway	28	17.3
Cartagena Railway	105	65.2
Cucuta Railway	55	34.1
Dorada Railway	33	20.5
Girardot Railway	132	82.0
Pacific (Cauca) Railway	174	108.1
Puerto Wilches (Great Northern Central) Railway	20	12.4
Honda-Ambalema	82	50.9
Colombian Northern Railway	62	38.5
Sabana Railway	40	24.8
Santa Marta Railway	98	60.8
Southern Railway	33	20.5
Tachira Railway	16	9.9
Tolima Railway	30	18.6
Total.....	1,113	690.8

The lines from Barranquilla and Cartagena, as already stated, run from the north coast and connect with the steamer routes on the Magdalena River. The Santa Marta road also starts on the north coast and runs to the town of Fundacion, on the river of the same name. It is the outlet for a large banana district, and the railroad company has contracted for extensions into new territory which are expected to materially increase the output of that fruit. The bay of Santa Marta offers a safe anchorage all the year round; there is a wharf with accommodations for large steamers and a depth of water of 30 feet.

The Great Northern Central line starts from Puerto Wilches, on the Magdalena, and is under construction toward Bucaramanga, with the ultimate expectation of being built to the capital.

The Dorada Railway was constructed in order to afford a means of easy transportation around the rapids of the Magdalena, which here make navigation impossible. The line extends from La Dorada through Honda to Ambalema, but passengers leave the train to take the steamer route to Puerto Beltran.

The Girardot Railway starts at the Magdalena and joins the Sabana line at Facatativa, the latter line running direct to Bogota and thus completing the line of communication between the Caribbean Sea and the capital of the Republic. These two roads are, of course, of the utmost importance to Colombia, for previous to their completion it was necessary to take a long trip by muleback over the mountains to the river. The Tolima Railway is a short line running from the Magdalena at Girardot to the town of Chicoral, and it is planned to extend it to Ibague, the capital of the Department of Tolima.

Two other lines, the Colombian Northern and the Southern Railway, run from Bogota through the extensive Savanas, the former to the north and the latter terminating in the town of Sibate, toward the southwest. The Colombian Northern is now in operation to Nemocon and is



Courtesy of The American Museum Journal.

THE RUGGED GRANDEUR OF COLOMBIA—PARAMO VALLEY, SANTA ISABEL.

The Paramo of Santa Isabel lies about two days' journey from Salento, the largest town on the Quindio trail, which crosses the central Andes, and on clear days especially toward dusk, can be seen at several points rising above the forest-capped ridges to an altitude of between 16,000 and 17,000 feet.

expected to continue on to Chiquinquirá, 66 miles (106 kilometers) farther, where it will meet the Puerto Wilches line to be extended from Bucaramanga. If the plans for this route are carried out, these two roads will form a great trunk line from Bogotá to the Magdalena, which will not only shorten the distance and the time consumed in the journey to the coast, but will open up a vast extent of territory now but little developed.

The Cucuta Railway is a short line connecting the city of that name with the port of Villamizar, the head of navigation on the Zulia River, with an extension to Tachira on the Venezuelan frontier.

The Pacific Railway, from Buenaventura on the west coast, runs to the prosperous city of Cali and thence through the Cauca Valley. Cali was connected with the Cauca River in July, 1910, by a short steam tramway. The Pacific line is expected to follow the Valley of the Cauca for a considerable distance, and will furnish an outlet to the sea for the increasing commerce of that district. With the completion of this line and the railroad connecting the Cauca with the cities of Amagá and Medellín, also that between Medellín and Puerto Berrio on the Magdalena, the products of a large part of the Republic will be much more easily and quickly transported to foreign markets than at present, so that the commerce of the country should receive an impetus it has never before known.

Colombia has a fine system of waterways, the most important of which is the Magdalena, navigable by vessels of considerable draft for a distance of over 600 miles (966 kilometers) and by smaller craft 300 miles (483 kilometers) farther. The Atrato is navigable for 200 miles (322 kilometers) inland and the Sinu for 110 miles (177 kilometers). The Cauca, the Zulia, the Cesar, the Nechí, the Lebrija, the Sogamoso and some of the smaller tributaries are also navigable for various distances.

Steamer service to Colombia is maintained on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides. To Buenaventura on the Pacific, local steamers of all lines running south from Panama make regular passage, the distance being 355 miles (571 kilometers); express steamers, however, do not stop at Colombian ports. Cartagena and Barranquilla (in reality this is Savanilla, for Barranquilla is rather the city on the River) are regular ports of call for steamers between Colon and European ports, on such lines as the Royal Mail, the Hamburg-American (Atlas service), the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Veloce and the Compañía Transatlántica. Santa Marta, farther to the east, is now in direct connection with New York by the steamers of the United Fruit Company.

Some of the interior highways, especially from Bogotá and Medellín, are so well built that automobile service is conducted on them, but much



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of the travel from place to place must be restricted to cart road of a rather primitive character, or even to mule paths, too narrow to admit a wheeled vehicle. The pleasures of these journeys fully compensate, however, for the lack of some of the luxuries available to the traveler in more thickly populated countries.

Colombia is a land of contrasts, from the tropic coast to the temperate plateau and even to the snow-clad mountains of the Cordillera. It has not yet become a tourist country, although every attraction of natural beauty can be found there. Near Bogota are the Falls of Tequendama, higher than Niagara but not so voluminous; a miracle spring is worth visiting, and many interesting remains of the aboriginal inhabitants can be found in the neighborhood and studied. As railway facilities increase, Colombia is sure to become better known to the transient visitor.

EDUCATION

Education in Colombia is under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. There are five subdivisions, designated as follows: Primary, secondary, professional, artistic and industrial. According to the latest figures available, there were reported to be 5,225 schools with an attendance of about 335,480 pupils. In 1915 there were 4,200 primary schools with 298,541 pupils in attendance. Many of the schools for secondary education are entrusted to religious bodies. There is a university at Bogota, founded in 1572, with faculties in letters, philosophy, law and political sciences, medicine and natural sciences, and in mathematics and engineering. A university at Medellin was founded in 1822, and there is also the University of Magdalena at Cartagena. Great effort has been made to establish schools of arts and crafts for the working classes, and gratifying success has been the result. The art schools in the larger cities are always well attended. Normal schools to the number of twenty-one have been founded in thirteen departments, and Medellin and Pasto have each a mining school.

THE PAN AMERICAN UNION is the international organization and office maintained in Washington, D. C., by the twenty-one American republics, as follows: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It is devoted to the development and advancement of commerce, friendly intercourse, and good understanding among these countries. It is supported by quotas contributed by each country, based upon the population. Its affairs are administered by a Director General and Assistant Director, elected by and responsible to a Governing Board, which is composed of the Secretary of State of the United States and the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the other American governments. These two executive officers are assisted by a staff of international experts, statisticians, commercial specialists, editors, translators, compilers, librarians, clerks and stenographers. The Union publishes a Monthly Bulletin in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, which is a careful record of Pan American progress. It also publishes numerous special reports and pamphlets on various subjects of practical information. Its library, the Columbus Memorial Library, contains 36,000 volumes, 18,000 photographs, 132,000 index cards, and a large collection of maps. The Union is housed in a beautiful building erected through the munificence of Andrew Carnegie.